LESSON 1
Adventure Zones

You've done a super job with our story and prayer. Now it's time to move on to our Adventure Zone(s). Stand by—things are about to get even more fun!

Choose from three Adventure Zones: a game, a Bible review snack, and an outreach project. Depending on the length of your lesson and the number of staff you have available, you may want to offer one, two, or all three of these hands-on, lesson-reinforcing activities. If you choose just one, be sure to offer a different type of activity each week. Variety keeps kids interested and involved!

Game: In and Out of the Tall Grass

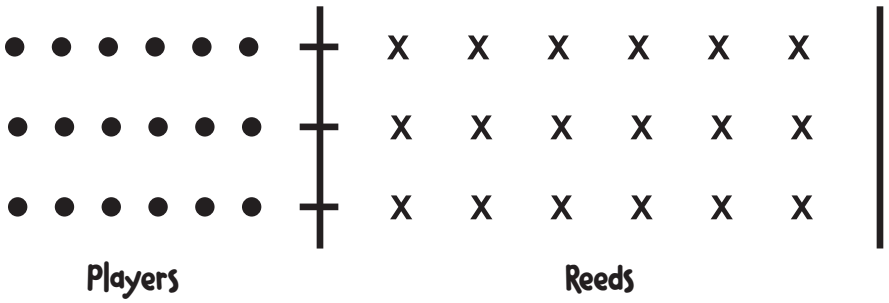
This exciting relay challenges kids to move baby Moses' basket through the river without getting entangled in the tall grass.

Before class, lay tape lines a few feet from opposite walls.

Let's count off by twos to form two groups. Group 1, you're the Tall Grass. Group 2, you're the Players.

These tape lines represent the banks of the Nile River. Players, form your teams behind this side of the Nile River.

Indicate one side of the room. Place a small tape line perpendicular to the river's edge to mark each team's position. Give each team a sturdy clothes basket. Have the smallest member of each team crawl into the basket.



Tall Grass, please scatter yourselves evenly across the river in front of the Players. Plant your feet firmly at shoulder width. Good. Now cross your arms. During the game you may sway back and forth in the current of the river, but your feet need to remain firmly on the floor and your arms must stay crossed.

Players, your job is to push baby Moses in the basket back and forth between the Tall Grass until you reach the other side of the river.

- **Sturdy Clothes Baskets, One for Every 10 Kids**
- **Blue Painter's Tape**

If the task of pushing the basket is too challenging for smaller students, have an adult helper lend a hand.

- Triscuit Crackers
- String Cheese
- Napkins
- Plastic Knives

Then turn the basket around and head back across the river where the next player will take over. You must go around every Tall Grass without touching one.

If you touch a Tall Grass, pull the basket back to where you started and go to the end of the line. You'll be the last person to play. The team that finishes first gets to take a bow.

Before you start the game, ask the kids to explain the directions so you know that everyone understands.

Ready? Go!

After one round of the relay, have the Players and Tall Grass change positions and play again.

After the second round of play, call the kids together.

In our game, you were guiding baby Moses' basket.

- ***In the Bible story, who do you think was guiding the basket?***
- ***Why would God bother to guide a baby's basket?***
- ***What kinds of plans did God have for Moses?***
- ***What plans do you think God might have for you?***
- ***What's the most important thing you learned from this lesson?***

Bible Review Snack: Baby in a Basket

On a snack table set out Triscuit crackers, a platter of string cheese, plastic knives, and napkins. Invite the kids to join you around the table.

- ***What desperate situation did the characters in our Bible story face?***
- ***Why did Pharaoh want to get rid of the Hebrew baby boys?***

Moses' mother was really smart and brave, and she trusted God.

- ***What did she do to begin her plan to save her baby boy?*** She put tar on a basket to make it float.

You may all take one cracker. Do you see how it looks kind of like a basket?

- ***Once the basket was finished, what did the mother and sister put inside it?*** They put baby Moses inside.

Three of you will share a piece of string cheese. Cut it in three sections.

You'll have the perfect size baby to fit in your cracker basket.

The basket had a nice cover, so put another cracker on top.

Now you've completed your baby in the basket snack, and you may enjoy it as we finish discussing the story.

- ***How do you think Moses' mother felt when she pushed the basket into the river?***
- ***What gave her the courage to do it?***
- ***Who watched over the baby as he floated in the river?***
- ***Who watches over you every moment of every day?***
- ***What plans did God have for Moses?***
- ***What plans do you think God might have for you?***

Have the children clean up the snack area before you continue the lesson.

Outreach: God Has a Plan for You! Letter

We've learned a really important Bible truth today.

- ***Who can tell me what it is?*** God has a plan for me.

That's exactly right! God has a plan for each one of us. And he's not going to let anything stand in the way of his plans for us—not even a mean old king!

Maybe you know someone who would be encouraged by a reminder of what we've learned today. Sometimes when people go through hard times, they get discouraged and forget that God has them in his care.

Even when things are going great, it's wonderful to be reminded of God's plans for our lives!

Use this letter as an opportunity to touch someone's life. Think of all the people you know. Who would be glad to receive a letter of encouragement with a verse from the Bible? Address your letter to that person and sign your name.

Write the person's name on the envelope as well. Ask Mom or Dad to help you deliver it.

If you brought rubber stamps and stamp pads, let kids decorate their envelopes.

When kids have finished, help them fold the letters and tuck them into the envelopes. Ask a student volunteer to pray that the letters will encourage the people who receive them.

- God Has a Plan for You! Letter
- Markers
- Envelopes
- Optional: Rubber Stamps and Stamp Pads

Have your helpers assist kids in pairing off. If you have an uneven number of children, a helper can be a partner to someone.

LESSON 2
Adventure Zones

Choose from three Adventure Zones: a game, a Bible review snack, and an outreach project. Depending on the length of your lesson and the number of staff you have available, you may want to offer one, two, or all three of these hands-on, lesson-reinforcing activities. If you choose just one, be sure to offer a different type of activity each week. Variety keeps kids interested and involved!

Game: Super Challenge

The challenges I have for you today are not for the faint of heart. You'll need all the help you can get! So find a partner and get ready to wiggle!

Kids will need to be in an open area. Either have them move the chairs aside, or move beyond the grouping of chairs to open areas around the edge of the classroom.

Okay, I have four challenges. You and your partner will take turns doing the challenges, so decide who will go first (Partner 1) and who will go second (Partner 2).

Give the kids a moment to decide.

CHALLENGE 1

Here's the first challenge. Remember, only one of you will do this.
- ***Begin by standing on one foot.***
- ***Now pump your arms as if you were running. Good.***
- ***Keep up those two actions and add blinking your eyes.***
- ***Add one more action: Shake your head.***

The addition of shaking their heads will cause kids to lose their balance.

Whoa—looks like you blew the challenge! I have an idea. Let's do it again. This time your partner can help.

Repeat each step of the challenge. With a partner lending a steadying hand, most kids will be able to accomplish it.

That's pretty cool. With a little power from your partner, you accomplished a difficult challenge!

CHALLENGE 2

Now it's time for Partner 2 to step up to the plate. Here's your challenge.
- ***Bend from the waist and let your arms dangle.***
- ***Point both arms straight forward.***
- ***Stick one leg out straight behind you.***
- ***Hop on the other leg.***

Whoops! Looks like most of you got a little wobbly there. Let's try the challenge again, this time with some partner power.

Repeat the challenge with the partner helping. Most kids will accomplish it. If anyone has trouble, have one of your adult helpers lend another hand.

CHALLENGE 3

Here's challenge number three. Partner 1, are you ready to rock?
- ***Pick up a book and stand as tall as you can.***
- ***Place the book on your head.***
- ***Clasp your hands behind your back.***
- ***Keeping the book on your head, squat down and walk like a duck.***

Hey—all you ducks dropped your books. That's no good! Looks like we need partner power again.

Repeat the challenge with the partner helping. Congratulate kids on accomplishing the challenge.

CHALLENGE 4

The final challenge is upon us. Partner 2, you're up!
- ***Stand straight and close your eyes.***
- ***Spin around five times, keeping your eyes closed.***
- ***Spin in the opposite direction five times.***
- ***Without opening your eyes, point to the door.***

With luck, some kids might actually point to the door, but most will not.

Here we go again, this time with partner power!

Repeat the challenge. This time have Partner 1 point Partner 2's finger toward the door.

I must say I'm really impressed. Those were no easy challenges, but you got them all!

- ***What was your big secret?*** My partner helped me.

- ***Did you mess up without your partner's help? Why?***

- ***Did your partner ever give up on you? Explain.***

If you could accomplish those difficult challenges with partner power, imagine what you could accomplish with God's power at work in you!

- ***What are some things you might mess up without God's help?***

- ***How do you know that God's power is at work in you?*** Our Bible verse says so!

Super job, everyone!

Have kids stack the books before you go on to the next activity.

• One Book per Child

- Oreo Cookies
- Zip-top Bags
- Spoons
- Napkins
- Pudding Cups

OR

- Instant Pudding Mix
- Milk
- Bowls
- Mixing Spoons
- Paper Cups

Bible Review Snack: Oreo Smash

On a snack table, set out Oreo cookies, zip-top bags, spoons, napkins, and pudding cups or ingredients for making instant pudding: instant pudding mix, milk, mixing bowls, and mixing spoons. Have kids join you around the table.

Our story today was about someone who messed up.

• Who was it and how did he mess up?

As we make today's snack, I'd like three or four of you to share one zip-top bag. Each of you take one perfectly yummy cookie and put it in the bag. Now to show how badly Moses messed up his life, take turns punching the cookies in the bag until you have nothing but crumbles. When you've finished, hold up the bag so I can see it.

Good work. Now will you please put your Oreos back together?

• What's the problem?

Sometimes we mess up so badly that it seems like everything is ruined. We think our lives will never be the same. But God is always with us. He can take our mistakes and turn them into something better than we can imagine. Let's do that with our snack!

Pass out pudding cups or have kids make instant pudding.

Sprinkle your cookie mess on top of the pudding and dig in.

How does that taste?

The pudding is a good place for the cookie crumbles to land.

Did God give Moses a good place to land? Explain.

Does anyone want to tell about the worst time you messed up?

Don't force anyone to share. You may want to prime the pump by telling about a time you did something disappointing.

What are you going to remember from this treat?

Have the children clean up the snack area before you continue the lesson.

- God Is Always with You! Notes
- Scissors
- Markers

Outreach: God Is Always with You! Notes

When we're in the middle of a tough situation, it's easy to forget that God is with us. All we can think about is how bad things are.

I have some little notes for you that are helpful reminders that God is always with us—even when we mess up. Your job is this: Cut the notes apart and decide to whom you're going to give them. You may want to put one on your bathroom mirror as a reminder for yourself!

Let kids decide if they'd like to decorate the cards and sign their names on the back. As they work, encourage them to brainstorm possible recipients for their cards and how they will deliver them.

LESSON 3
Adventure Zones

Choose from three Adventure Zones: a game, a Bible review snack, and an outreach project. Depending on the length of your lesson and the number of staff you have available, you may want to offer one, two, or all three of these hands-on, lesson-reinforcing activities. If you choose just one, be sure to offer a different type of activity each week. Variety keeps kids interested and involved!

Game: Don't Plague Me

Even though God made things pretty tough on the Egyptians, stubborn Pharaoh wouldn't let God's people go. All of the Egyptians suffered because of Pharaoh's disobedience. This game will let you experience what it was like to be an Egyptian during the plagues.

Divide kids into four groups.

To begin, Group 1 will form a circle facing out. I'll give each of you a pie pan. You'll use the pie pans to try to knock away the frogs, gnats, flies, and locusts that are invading your houses.

Groups 2, 3, and 4, you'll wad up this paper into balls. When I say, "Go!" you'll unleash your paper-ball plagues at the Egyptians. The point is to try to make the paper balls land inside their circle. After you've launched all your plagues, we'll count the number of paper balls in the circle.

Every group will take a turn being the Egyptians. At the end, we'll see which group allowed the fewest paper plagues inside their circle.

Play four rounds of the game, allowing each group to have a turn defending themselves from the invading plagues. At the end, have the group that let the least amount of paper balls pass take a bow.

• Can anyone stand up against the power of God? Explain.

• Do you think Moses ever dreamed about doing these kinds of miracles? Why or why not?

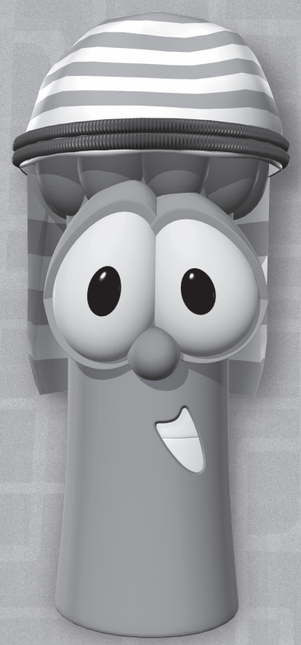
• How did Moses do such a good job facing Pharaoh?

Have kids collect the paper balls, smooth them out, and place them in a stack for recycling.

- Aluminum Pie Pans
- Scrap Paper

Encourage kids to launch the paper balls into the circle, not at the defender's faces.

- Bread or Small Flour Tortillas
- Strawberry Cream Cheese Spread
- Raisins
- M&M's Candies
- Miniature Marshmallows
- Red Hots
- Plastic Knives
- Paper Towels



Bible Review Snack: Yucky/Yummy Plague Snacks

On the snack table, set out bread or small flour tortillas, strawberry cream cheese spread, raisins, M&M's candies, miniature marshmallows, Red Hots, plastic knives, and paper towels.

The beginning of our story found Moses on a mountainside tending his sheep.

• ***What caught Moses' attention?*** God spoke to him from a bush that was on fire, but not burning up.

• ***What job did God give Moses?*** To go tell Pharaoh to set God's people free.

• ***Did Moses want the job? Explain.*** No. Moses was afraid.

Moses would rather have stayed at home in his own bed than do what God commanded him to do. Put out a slice of bread or a tortilla to represent a bed.

• ***What helped Moses decide to do the job?*** He knew that with God's help, he could do anything.

• ***When Pharaoh refused to let God's people go, what miracle did God help Moses do?*** He turned all the water in Egypt to blood.

Spread the pink topping over your bread to represent the blood in all the rivers and ponds in Egypt.

Pharaoh remained stubborn and wouldn't let God's people go.

• ***Who remembers some of the other plagues God sent on Egypt?*** Frogs, gnats, flies, sick animals, boils, hail, locusts, and darkness.

Some of the nasty plagues ended up inside the Egyptians' houses—even in their beds. Look at the treats we have on the table.

• ***What plagues might they represent?*** Marshmallows could represent hail; raisins and M&M's could be gnats and flies; Red Hots could be sores.

Go ahead and sprinkle plagues all over your bread. Think you can gobble up these yummy/yucky plagues? You don't have to use everything—just the treats that look good to you.

As kids enjoy their treats, continue the discussion.

• ***Why did God send all these plagues on Egypt?*** Because Pharaoh wouldn't let God's people go.

• ***How do you think Moses felt when God performed these mighty miracles through him?*** Like God was on his side; like with God's help, he could do anything.

Have children clean up the snack area before you continue the lesson.

Outreach: Prayer Squads

Have kids break into their four groups from the story. Assign an adult leader for each group.

Give each group one or two copies of the Ephesians 3:20 handout. Have kids cut the Bible verse cards apart, then sign their names or initials on all the cards.

We want everyone on our church staff to remember that with God's help they can do anything. So I'm sending you out in prayer squads. Stop by the offices of our church staff and pray for them to know God's power in their lives. Then tape a card on their office doors to let them know you've been there and prayed for them. Be sure to be back here by (name the time).

Prayer squads, you have your mission! I'll see you back here soon!

Before the groups leave, make sure each adult leader has a roll of tape and a watch. Stress the importance of meeting back in the classroom right on time.

- Ephesians 3:20 Handout
- Scissors
- Markers
- Tape

You may wish to form more or fewer groups, according to the number of kids and adults who are present.

LESSON 4
Adventure Zones

Choose from three Adventure Zones: a game, a Bible review snack, and an outreach project. Depending on the length of your lesson and the number of staff you have available, you may want to offer one, two, or all three of these hands-on, lesson-reinforcing activities. If you choose just one, be sure to offer a different type of activity each week. Variety keeps kids interested and involved!

- Balloons

Game: Bible Verse Balloon Bop

Before class, blow up several balloons. Form groups of eight to ten kids, and give each group a balloon.

Here's how our Balloon Bop game works. One person in each circle will say the first word of Ephesians 3:20, which is "with." While saying the word, that person will bop the balloon to another person in the circle. Like volleyball, that person immediately bops the balloon to another person while shouting, "God's," the second word in the verse. The next person bops to someone else and shouts the third word, "power."

The goal is to get all the way through the verse without anyone missing a bop or a word. Keep going until you've completed the verse without a miss, then jump up and down and be as silly as you like to celebrate.

Let's rehearse the verse together before we begin.

"With God's power working in us,
God can do much, much more
than anything we can ask or think of."
Ephesians 3:20

Play until every group has completed the verse without a miss. If some groups struggle, other groups can stand around them and shout the appropriate words.

After you finish, let the person in each group who has the next birthday pop the balloon.

- Graham Cracker Crumbs
- (1) Pan of Red Gelatin Cut in Cubes — Two Cubes per Kid
- Clear Wide-Bottomed Cups
- Gummi Bears
- Pretzel Sticks
- Spray Whipped Topping
- Plastic Spoons
- Paper Towels

Bible Review Snack: Red Sea Wiggle

On the snack table, set out a box of graham cracker crumbs; a pan of red gelatin cut in cubes (two cubes per kid); clear, wide-bottomed cups; Gummi Bears; pretzel sticks; spray whipped topping; plastic spoons; and paper towels.

We have a really yummy Red Sea Wiggle snack today. Everybody pick up a cup and a spoon and get ready to build it!

First of all, we need sand at the bottom of the sea. Spoon a little sand (graham cracker crumbs) into the bottom of your cup.

- ***For years the Israelites had served as slaves in what sandy country?*** Egypt.

- ***What did God send to convince Pharaoh to let God's people go?*** Plagues.

- ***Where did God tell the Israelites to camp?*** By the Red Sea.

Drop two red gelatin cubes in your snack cup to make the Red Sea.

- ***What made the Israelites panic?*** They saw the Egyptian army coming.

- ***How did God make a way for the Israelites to escape?*** He told Moses to hold out his walking stick; God sent a strong wind to divide the sea in two.

Everyone take a pretzel stick. That's your "Moses walking stick." Use it to divide your Red Sea in two. Then take two Gummi Bears to represent the Israelites and walk them through the sea to the other side of your cup.

- ***What did God do to make sure the Israelites stayed safe?*** God made the water flow back so the sea swallowed the Egyptians.

Break your pretzel stick into little pieces to represent the Egyptian army. Then wiggle the sea until it covers them.

- ***How did God show the Israelites where to go?*** He led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Squirt some whipped topping on your treat to represent the pillar of cloud. Finally, make your two Gummi Bears jump up and down and say, "Yea, God!"

Good job. Dig into those yummy treats!

Have children clean up the snack area before you continue the lesson.

Outreach: Victory Song

Before class arrange to visit the nursery or another class to share the victory song "I Will Sing unto the Lord" (Horse and Rider). This is a public domain song with several versions available on the Internet, including: *http://www.mypianoworld.com/MyPianoWorld-Praise/horseandrider2.pdf.*

Today we want to share God's great victory over Pharaoh with (name the class you'll be visiting). ***Before we head down the hall for our performance, let's give it a run-through.***

Since other classes will be going on as we travel, let's sneak quietly through the halls the way the Israelites must have sneaked quietly from Egypt! Remember, the point of our visit is to share with our audience that God is more powerful than anyone!

After your performance, lead kids quietly back to your worship area.

Great job, guys! I'm sure our audience enjoyed that!

- Copies of the "Horse and Rider" Song

You may want to ask an articulate student to give a brief summary of the Exodus story before you sing.

LESSON 5
Adventure Zones

Choose from three Adventure Zones: a game, a Bible review snack, and an outreach project. Depending on the length of your lesson and the number of staff you have available, you may want to offer one, two, or all three of these hands-on, lesson-reinforcing activities. If you choose just one, be sure to offer a different type of activity each week. Variety keeps kids interested and involved!

- **Copies of the Ten Commandments Stomp**

Game: Ten Commandments Stomp

Have kids count off by fours and form four groups. Give each group several copies of the Ten Commandments Stomp sheets.

A great way to remember the Ten Commandments is to perform them. So let's get rappin'! I've given each group part of the Ten Commandments Stomp. In your groups, work out how you'll perform your part of the stomp for the rest of the class. I'll stop by each group to see how you're doing. The moves are up to you!

The Ten Commandments Stomp is printed here for your convenience.

The Ten Commandments Stomp is in 4/4 rhythm. The italicized words mark beats one and three. Practice it with the emphasis on the italicized words to get the rhythm in your head.

Ten Commandments Stomp, Part 1

I'm the *Lord* your *God* who *set* you *free*;
You shall *have* no *other* **(stomp)** *gods* before *me*.

Make yourself an *idol*? **(stomp, stomp)** No *way*!
Don't *wor*-ship *stone* or *wood* or *clay*.

Ten Commandments Stomp, Part 2

My name is *holy*; **(stomp)** *use* it with *care*
In *praise* and *worship* and *dai*-ly *prayer.*

The *Sab*-bath *day* is a *day* of *rest*.
Take *time* to *worship* and *don't* be *stressed*.

The Ten Commandments Stomp, Part 3

Honor your *parents*; **(stomp)** it's *what* you must *do*.
And *I* will *give* long *life* to *you*.

Do not *murder* or *take* a *life*.
Be *happy* with your *hus*-band or *wife*.

The Ten Commandments Stomp, Part 4

Don't steal *things* that don't be-*long* to *you*.
Don't tell a *lie*; **(stomp)** just *say* what's *true*.

Don't covet *things* that be-*long* to *others*,
Then you'll live in *peace* with your *sisters* and *brothers*.

You'll have a few minutes to create and practice your presentation. I hope you'll come up with some fun stuff!

Give kids a two-minute warning before you gather them for presentations. Let all the groups do a dress rehearsal in front of the whole class, and then go through their routines in a final presentation. Encourage the kids to give each other rousing applause!

Bible Review Snack: Wrapped in Love

On the snack table, set out mini-doughnuts, Gummi Bears, and paper towels.

Today we began with the Israelites safe from the Egyptians on the far side of the Red Sea. Then they traveled through the desert for three months.

Everybody grab a Gummi Bear. Hold your bear upright on the palm of one hand and make him march as we march three times around the room—once for each month the Israelites traveled.

Keep the discussion going as kids march.

- ***How did the Israelites know where to go?*** God led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Gather kids around the table.

- ***How did God feed the Israelites during their journey?*** With manna in the morning and quail at night.
- ***What was manna?*** Flaky stuff like frost that they could use to make bread.

Watch out—here comes the manna!

Sprinkle frosted corn flakes across the table and let everyone enjoy a few.

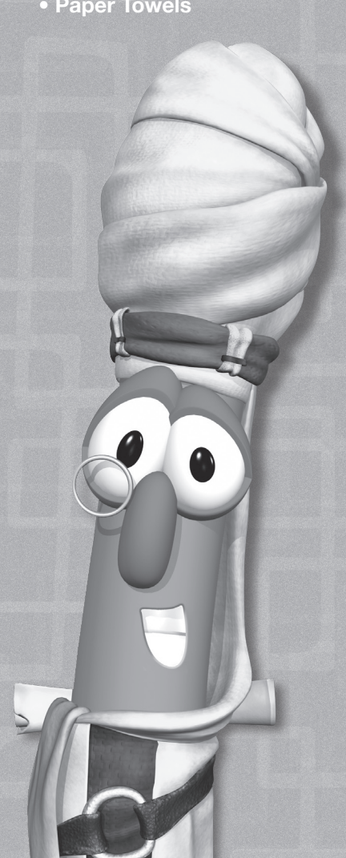
- ***Where did the Israelites finally arrive?*** At Mount Sinai.
- ***What had happened on that mountain before?*** God talked to Moses through the burning bush.

Moses climbed up the mountain, and he came down with a message from God.

- ***What was that message?*** That God had carried them on eagles' wings and wanted to make them his special people.

Assign an adult or teen helper to each group to help them work out rhythm and choreography.

- **Frosted Corn Flakes**
- **Mini-Doughnuts**
- **Gummi Bears**
- **Paper Towels**



• ***Besides the Israelites, who else can believe that promise?*** People who believe in Jesus.

• ***What was the next message from God?*** The Ten Commandments.

• ***Who can tell me what some of the Commandments were?***

• ***Did God give the Israelites the Commandments because he wanted to be mean? Explain.*** No, he wanted them to be safe and to know what he was like.

Take a mini-doughnut and tuck your bear inside. If there's room, you can tuck in another couple of bears. Now here's a really tough question. I wonder if anyone will be able to figure it out.

• ***How does the bear in the doughnut remind you of God's law?***

Let kids think about this for a minute before you give the answer.

Look how safe our little bears are inside their doughnuts. They're wrapped up and nothing can hurt them. God's law does the same thing for us. It surrounds us with God's love and care. It makes us safe and leads us in a way that leads to peace.

Now gobble up those yummy "Wrapped in Love" treats!

Have children clean up the snack area before you continue the lesson.

Outreach: Eagles' Wings Flyer

When people remember the Ten Commandments, they often think just about the rules and not about the love God expressed for his people. You can express God's love to others this week and remind them that God carries them in his powerful arms and brings them to himself.

Hand out copies of the Eagles' Wings flyer. Show kids how to fold it in the middle like a paper airplane with the illustrated sides facing one another. Then, show them how to fold along the dotted lines from the middle of the flyer out, first folding the paper down and then up.

• ***When have you felt God's special care for you?***

• ***How does it feel to know that God wants you to be one of his special people?***

• ***Who will receive your message of God's love?***

Have kids clean up before you move on to the next activity.

• Copies of Eagles' Wings Flyer

LESSON 6
Adventure Zones

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Game: God's Way/My Way Mini-Skits

Have kids form groups of four to six. Cut apart the Mini-Skit cards and give a card to each group.

Each group will receive a Mini-Skit card. Your job is to come up with two mini-skits: One that shows a selfish way of responding, and a second that honors God's way. Your skits will be short, but they can have several characters. You might choose one person to be the director.

I'll give you five minutes to prepare your skits, then you'll get to present them to the class. Remember, your first skit shows a selfish response, and your second one shows a way to "choose life" by doing things the way God wants us to.

Give students a one-minute warning before their planning and rehearsal time is up. Be sure to offer assistance to groups that seem unsure of what to do.

The spin of the bottle will decide which group goes first!

Place a water bottle on the floor and give it a spin. Call up the group that's closest to where the bottle points.

The Mini-Skit cards are printed here for your convenience.

Mini-Skit 1

There's a spelling bee at school. You miss an easy word and some kids make fun of you. What will you do?

Mini-Skit 2

You want to watch a VeggieTales video. Your older brother wants to watch a TV show. The two of you start arguing. What will you do?

Mini-Skit 3

Your mom asks you to help with dinner, but you see your friends playing outside and you want to go play with them. What will you do?

• Copies of Mini-Skit Cards
• Water Bottle

Ask your classroom helpers to assist the groups in preparing their skits. Make sure the kids do the planning, but feel free to offer help and suggestions.

- Large Crackers
- Pizza Sauce
- Grated Cheese
- Paper Plates
- Paper Towels
- Plastic Spoons

Mini-Skit 4

A person at school is bragging about a high grade on a project. Your friend is sad because of getting a low grade. What will you do?

Mini-Skit 5

You're playing with Legos. Your brother or sister has some pieces that you need and doesn't want to share them with you. What will you do?

Mini-Skit 6

Several of your neighborhood friends are playing at someone's house. Your friend starts to play a video that you know your parents wouldn't want you to see. What will you do?

Mini-Skit 7

A kid from another class has been showing off his iPod at lunch. He (or she) leaves, not noticing that the iPod has dropped to the floor. What will you do?

Mini-Skit 8

You and your friends have been working hard on a poster for a school project. Your little brother or sister runs right over the poster and ruins it. What will you do?

Bible Review Snack: Moses Review Mini-Pizzas

On the snack table, set out large crackers, pizza sauce, grated cheese, paper plates, paper towels, and plastic spoons.

• ***How many of you like pizza?***

That's good, because today we're going to make mini-pizzas to review some of the things we've learned from Moses.

When Moses went up the mountain to meet God, he brought down something that formed the foundation of the Israelites' lives and taught them how to live.

• ***What did Moses bring down from the mountain?*** The Ten Commandments; God's law.

That's exactly right. Everyone take a cracker to form the foundation of your pizza.

• ***Why did God give the Law?*** Because he wanted his people to be safe and live good lives.

Wherever the Israelites were, God covered them with his love.

• ***Who can tell me some ways God covered the Israelites with his love?*** He gave them food; he protected them from Pharaoh's army; he told them he'd carried them on eagles' wings; he gave them the law.

Use your spoon to spread pizza sauce over your cracker. That will help us remember that God always covered the Israelites with his love.

God had a very surprising way of feeding his people in the desert.

• ***What was it?*** He sent manna and quail into their camp.

Please sprinkle cheese on your pizza to represent manna and quail.

• ***Before Moses died, he placed two choices before the people. What were they?*** Life and death; following God's way or living selfishly.

Everyone find a partner. Before you enjoy your pizza, tell your partner two ways you'll choose life this week. Then eat up!

Have children clean up the snack area before you continue the lesson.

Outreach: Choose Life Secret Message

• ***What do you think Moses meant when he challenged God's people to choose life?*** To remember to act the way God wants us to live.

• ***What's so different about choosing God's way and acting selfishly?*** When we act selfishly we don't think about others or about what God wants. We just do what we want.

• ***What would happen if everyone in the world acted selfishly?*** No one would get along. There would be fights and wars all the time. God would be sad.

Choosing life is something we need to be reminded of all the time. That's why it's important to read the Bible and pay attention to what God tells us. Otherwise it's easy to slip back into selfish ways.

Today we're going to make a secret message that you can hand to someone to remind him or her of the joy we find when we choose life and do things God's way.

Hand out scissors and copies of the Choose Life Secret Message. Show kids how to cut out the secret message and fold the flaps toward the middle. Fold any flap in; then fold in the one next to it and so on around the square. Weave the final flap into the others, and the secret message will stay closed by itself. Help kids write "Secret Message" on the outside.

As kids work, ask who might receive their secret messages. Encourage them to tell you what it looks like to choose life in their everyday lives. Suggest that they might even like to keep this secret message for themselves!

Have kids clean up before you move on to the next activity.

- Copies of the Choose Life Secret Message
- Scissors
- Markers

LESSON 7
Adventure Zones

Choose from three Adventure Zones: a game, a Bible review snack, and an outreach project. Depending on the length of your lesson and the number of staff you have available, you may want to offer one, two, or all three of these hands-on, lesson-reinforcing activities. If you choose just one, be sure to offer a different type of activity each week. Variety keeps kids interested and involved!

- **Clean Buckets, One for Every Eight Kids**
- **Foam Packing Peanuts**
- **Butterscotch Candies**
- **Whistle**

Game: Treasure in the Dark

Before class, fill clean buckets with foam packing peanuts and butterscotch candies. Make sure the candies and packing peanuts are well mixed.

When Nicodemus went to talk to Jesus in the night, you might say he was searching for treasure in the dark. And that's just what you're going to do.

Have kids form groups of four to eight kids. The groups should be close to the same size. Dim the room and have helpers light the jar candles again. Send each group to gather in a circle around a bucket.

The first rule of this game is to not peek at the treasure bucket. When it is your turn to dig for treasure, make sure you keep your eyes tightly closed.

Each of you will get fifteen seconds to dig in the bucket for treasure, without looking. I'll blow my whistle at the beginning and at the end of the fifteen seconds. When I blow the whistle, take your hands out of the bucket immediately. Then I'll blow the whistle again so the next person in your circle can search for treasure in the dark. Anyone who peeks will be disqualified.

Give kids a moment to decide which person will go first in their circles. Then blow the whistle in fifteen-second increments to let the kids dig for treasure. When everyone has had a turn, let kids enjoy a butterscotch treat as you discuss the game.

- **Bread**
- **Cheese Slices**
- **Paper Towels**

Bible Review Snack: Path to God

On the snack table, set out bread, cheese slices, and paper towels.

• ***Who can tell me why Nicodemus wanted to talk to Jesus?*** To find out who Jesus was; to find out how to have eternal life.

• ***Why did Nicodemus come at night?*** The Pharisees would be mad if they found out he had talked with Jesus.

• ***What question did Nicodemus ask?*** How a person can be born again.

Nicodemus understood a lot of things about God's Word, but he didn't know for sure how to have eternal life.

• ***Who can tell me what eternal life means?*** Living forever in heaven with God.

• ***Can you remember what Jesus said to do in order to have eternal life?*** Believe in Jesus.

Everyone take a piece of bread and put it on the table in front of you.

Jesus came to earth to show us the way to God. By living a perfect life, dying for us, and rising from the dead, Jesus made a pathway to eternal life. To take that pathway, we need to believe that Jesus is the Son of God who came to save us.

Everyone take a slice of cheese. Tear it into little strips and lay the strips across the bread like a pathway.

• ***Who is the path to God?*** Jesus.

Now fold your bread in half. As you enjoy your treat, tell five other people, "Jesus is the path to God."

Have children clean up the snack area before you continue the lesson.

- **Copies of the Jesus Is the Light of the World Pop-Up**
- **Scissors**
- **Markers**

Outreach: Jesus Is the Light of the World pop-up

Hand out scissors and copies of the Jesus Is the Light of the World pop-up. Have kids fold the handout in half on the dotted line so that the print side is showing; then cut out the rectangle on the solid line.

With the handout still folded in half, show them how to cut slits on the solid lines at the top and bottom of the candle and the flame. Then fold the handout so that the print is on the inside and crease it well. When kids open it, have them pull the flame and candle slightly forward, and they will pop up!

If you wish, let kids decorate their pop-ups with markers. As they work, encourage kids to tell you if they'll keep the pop-up to share with their families, or give it away.

• ***What does it mean that Jesus is the light of the world?*** That he shows us the way to God; that he shows us how to live.

The cool part of this is that when we believe in Jesus, his light shines through us!

Have kids clean up before you move on to the next activity.

- Sticky Notes
- Pencils
- Optional: Assorted Stickers

If you have twenty or fewer kids, you may want to do this activity as one large group.

If your class is predominantly younger children, you may want to have them use colorful stickers rather than sticky notes.

LESSON 8
Adventure Zones

Choose from three Adventure Zones: a game, a Bible review snack, and an outreach project. Depending on the length of your lesson and the number of staff you have available, you may want to offer one, two, or all three of these hands-on, lesson-reinforcing activities. If you choose just one, be sure to offer a different type of activity each week. Variety keeps kids interested and involved!

Game: Stick-on Blessings

Today we learned about being blessed by God.

• ***Who can tell me what it means to be blessed?*** Let several children share their insights.

I'd like each of you to know what it feels like to be blessed right here in our classroom. Please get back in your groups from the Bible story. Choose one person to stand in the middle of your group. Don't worry—everyone will get a turn to be in the middle.

Place a helper with each group.

The rest of you will think of a nice message for the person in the middle. Write or draw your message on a sticky note. For instance, you might write, "I like you," or "You're nice," or "You're a good friend." Or, you could draw a star or a smiley face or a heart on your note. Then, one by one, you'll put your sticky notes on the person in the middle. Say the message on your note out loud as you stick it on. That will be your way of giving a little blessing.

Remember, your notes will all say kind things, and you'll put them on the person in the middle very gently.

When you've all blessed the person in the middle, another person will go to the middle and you'll do the same thing. We'll keep going until you all have blessings stuck all over you!

After all the kids have been decorated and blessed, bring everyone together.

• ***What was it like to get blessings from everyone?***

• ***How are God's blessings different from the ones you received from your classmates?***

• ***When does God bless us?***

Collect the sticky notes and pencils. Encourage the kids to wear their "blessings" when they leave class.

Bible Review Snack: In God's Hands

On the snack table, set out hand-shaped cookie cutters, bread, butter spread, plastic knives, shakers of cinnamon sugar, and paper towels.

• ***Who can tell what it means to be blessed?*** To have joy deep inside; to be special to God; to be held in God's care.

Everyone take a slice of bread and place it on a paper towel.

• ***Does God bless us only on happy days? Explain.*** God blesses us even when we're sad.

• ***What are some of the things that make you sad?***

• ***How do you know God is blessing you even during sad times?*** The Bible says so.

Spread sunny-colored butter on your bread to represent happy days. Now sprinkle cinnamon sugar on your bread to represent darker days when sad things come into your lives.

Pause while kids butter and sprinkle their bread.

I told you about a special verse in Isaiah where God says,

"See, I have written your name on my hand."
Isaiah 49:16

Let's use these hand-shaped cookie cutters to remember that no matter what kind of day it is, God is blessing us and holding us in his hand.

As soon as you've cut out your hand shape, enjoy your snack.

• ***How do you like the cinnamon sugar on your bread?***

Even though the cinnamon sugar represents sad times, it tastes good and sweet. That reminds us that God is blessing us even in sad times. He is always planning good things for us. The more we trust God, even in bad times, the more he blesses us!

Have children clean up the snack area before you continue the lesson.

Outreach: Rain or Shine posters

On work tables, set out glue, small cotton balls, yellow highlighters (or glitter glue), and copies of the Rain or Shine poster.

• ***When does God bless us—on happy days or sad days?*** Both.

When we're going through sad times, it can be hard to remember that God is still blessing us. That's why we're making these posters. You can use your poster as a reminder that God is blessing us even when we're feeling sad.

- Hand-Shaped Cookie Cutters
- Bread
- Butter Spread
- Plastic Knives
- Shakers of Cinnamon Sugar
- Paper Towels

- Copies of the Rain or Shine Poster
- Glue
- Small Cotton Balls
- Yellow Highlighters
- Optional: Yellow glitter glue; hair dryers

For a special, glittery effect, you may want to let kids add tiny dots of glitter glue to the outline of the sun. Do this only if you have plenty of helpers to supervise the use of the glitter glue. Speed the drying time with hair dryers.

Have kids place a very small amount of glue on the clouds, and then add a few cotton balls to them. Then have them use a yellow highlighter to color the sun.

• ***When we're going through sad times, why is it important to remember that God is blessing us?*** It helps us trust God; it helps us expect good things from God.

• ***How do we know God is blessing us?*** He gives us joy deep inside; Jesus says so.

While you work, think about someone who would be happy to be reminded about God's blessings. You might want to give your poster to a friend in your neighborhood, someone in your family, or even someone here at church!

Have kids clean up before you move on to the next activity.

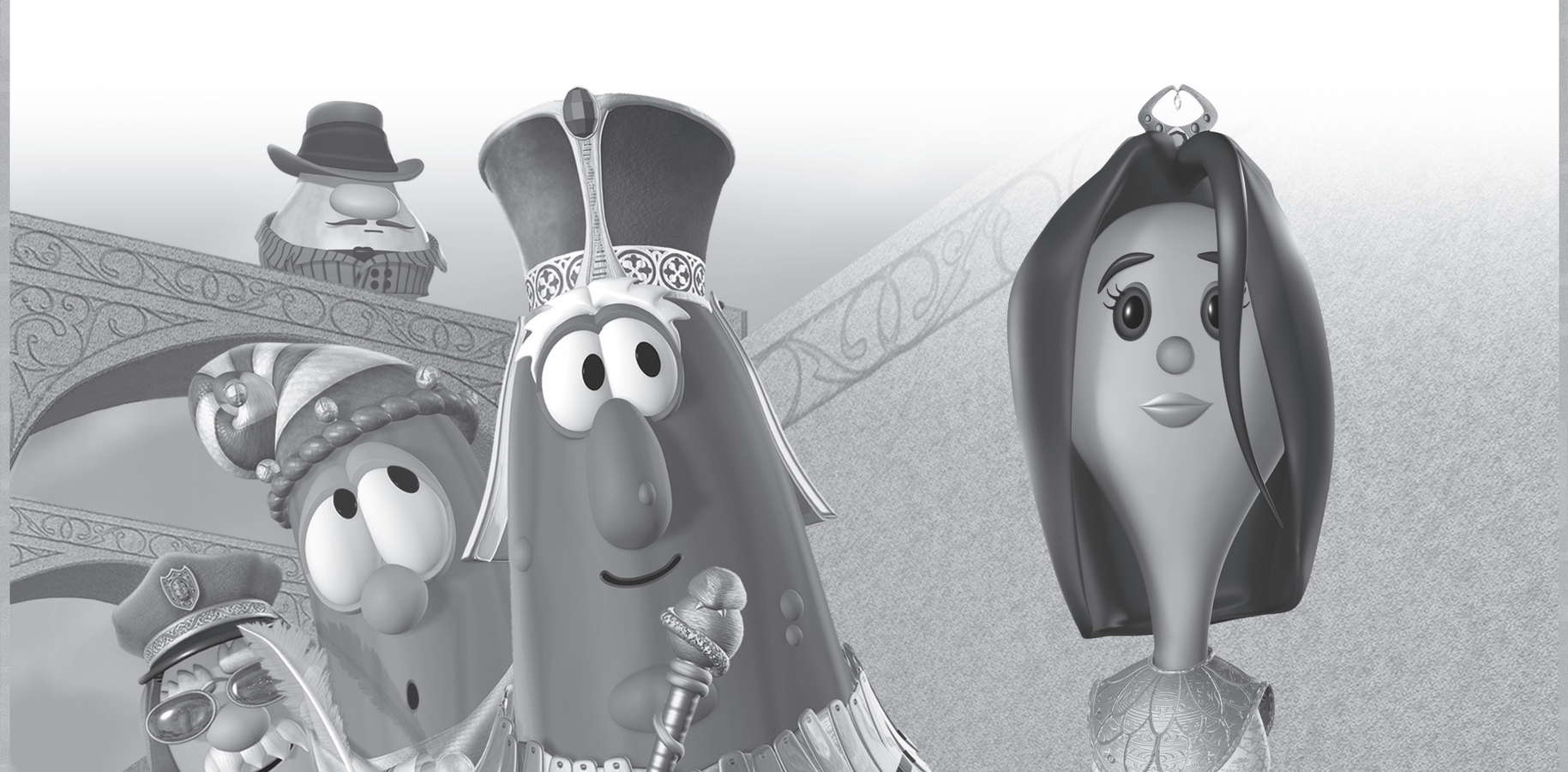
LESSON 9
Adventure Zones

Choose from three Adventure Zones: a game, a Bible review snack, and an outreach project. Depending on the length of your lesson and the number of staff you have available, you may want to offer one, two, or all three of these hands-on, lesson-reinforcing activities. If you choose just one, be sure to offer a different type of activity each week. Variety keeps kids interested and involved!

Game: Here Comes the Wave

Today we learned how Peter took his eyes off Jesus and almost got swallowed up by the waves. If you've ever been in a boat on a lake when a big storm starts to blow in, you know how scary that can be. You want to get to shore as fast as you can, because the waves are rising and rocking the boat and lightning might strike at any time.

We're going to create an experience that will allow you to see what it feels like to be rocked by a big wave. First of all, I need you to line up in front of me from the smallest person to the tallest.



Fifteen or twenty kids is a good length for a row. Have kids form as many rows as you need. For safety's sake, be sure each row lines up from the smallest person to the tallest.

- **Graham Crackers**
- **Honey in Squeeze Bottles**
- **Mini-Chocolate Chips**
- **Paper Towels**

Stand beside the smallest child in the first row. Face the same direction the kids are facing so they can mimic your actions.

In this game it's very important that you do exactly what I do. I'll do an action, then the person next to me will do the same action, then the next person will do it. We'll pass it right down the row.

Follow the directions exactly, and you'll end up with the rows of kids being safely and hilariously toppled over by the wave you create.

Point your right arm across your body and say, ***There's a wave over there.*** Have kids pass the action down the row and hold that pose.

Point your left arm across your body and say, ***There's a wave over there.*** Once again, have kids pass the action down the row and hold the pose with both arms crossing their bodies.

Kneel on your left knee. With your arms still crossed, lean your body to the right and say, ***There's a wave over there.***

When the kids have all repeated your action and are holding that twisted pose, say, ***There's a wave over there***, and give the child next to you on your left a firm push. He or she will topple over and the rest of the row will go over like dominoes. Because kids are near the ground and are arranged from small to tall, they'll topple very gently and results will be hilarious!

Once everyone has stopped laughing, gather them in a circle.

• ***What caused the big wave that knocked you over?*** You did!

• ***What kinds of real-life problems might knock you off balance?*** Let kids share their thoughts.

• ***When you're feeling swamped by a wave, what can you do?*** Call out, "Lord, help me!"

• ***Do you think Jesus will always be there for you?*** Explain why.

Bible Review Snack: Stick with Me

On the snack table, set out squeeze bottles of honey, graham crackers snapped in two, bags of mini-chocolate chips, and paper towels.

• ***Where did Jesus send the disciples at the beginning of today's story?*** Out on Lake Galilee in a boat.

Everyone take a graham cracker. That will be your fishing boat.

• ***What happened that scared the disciples?*** A big storm blew in.

• ***What's the next thing that scared the disciples?*** Someone came to them walking on the water. At first they thought it was a ghost, then they realized it was Jesus.

• ***When Peter saw Jesus, what did he want to do?*** Walk on the water like Jesus.

• ***What happened when Peter stepped out of the boat?*** At first he was fine, then he looked at the wind and the waves and began to sink.

• ***What did Peter call out?*** Lord, help me.

• ***What happened next?*** Jesus grabbed Peter's arm and saved him.

In order to make it, Peter needed to stick with Jesus. Everyone squirt a little bit of sticky honey in the middle of your graham cracker.

• ***How many disciples were in the boat?*** Twelve.

Take twelve mini-chocolate chips and drop them into your honey.

• ***What happened after Peter and Jesus stepped into the boat?*** The storm stopped.

Rock your graham cracker from side to side a little, like a boat tossing in the waves. Then hold it still to show that Jesus calmed the storm.

Your mini-chocolate chip disciples should be safe in the honey. They stuck with Jesus, and he kept them safe in the storm! As you enjoy your treats, tell three other people, "Stick with Jesus. He'll always be there when you need him."

Have children clean up the snack area before you continue the lesson.

Outreach: Sail with Jesus!

Before class, create two or three samples of a finished folded boat. Have your helpers familiarize themselves with the boat-folding process.

• ***Who was saved by Jesus in today's story?*** Peter.

• ***Why did Peter need to be saved?*** Because he looked at the waves and started to sink.

Jesus saved not only Peter, but everyone in the boat! Let's make a cool folded paper boat to remind us that Jesus is always there when we need him.

Form as many groups of kids as you have helpers. Hand out blank squares of paper for everyone and one or two copies of the folded boat instructions for each group.

As we make these boats, it's important to follow exactly what your group leader is doing. If you understand the folding and the person next to you is having trouble, please lend a hand. Making these boats takes a little patience, but stick with your leader and you'll do it just right.

- **Copies of the Sail with Jesus Boat Instructions**
- **8.5" x 8.5" Squares of Paper**
- **Markers**

To make a boat:

1. Fold the square in half diagonally; then open it again.

2. Fold the square in half diagonally in the other direction so you have a triangle with a crease down the middle.

3. Hold the triangle so the middle point is facing left. Fold the bottom part of the triangle to the center fold.

4. Turn the paper around as shown in Step 4.

5. Fold the bottom point up to meet the center fold.

6. Fold the left point back to make a straight edge on the left side of the boat.

7. Tuck the tip of the bottom point into the bottom fold to hold the boat together.

When kids have completed their boats, help them write "Sail with Jesus!" across the bottom.

Making those boats was a tough challenge. It might have even been a little scary for some of you.

Life gives us tough challenges sometimes—challenges that scare us. Like the storm that blew up quickly on Lake Galilee, we never know when a tough challenge will hit us. But we do know this: Jesus is always here for us!

• ***What can we do when a tough challenge scares us?*** Pray, "Lord, help me!"

This little boat would be a great gift for someone who is facing a scary storm in his or her life. It might also be a good reminder for your family that you could stick on your fridge. Ask God to tell you how to share your "Sail with Jesus!" boat this week!

Have kids clean up before you move on to the next activity.

LESSON 10
Adventure Zones

Choose from three Adventure Zones: a game, a Bible review snack, and an outreach project. Depending on the length of your lesson and the number of staff you have available, you may want to offer one, two, or all three of these hands-on, lesson-reinforcing activities. If you choose just one, be sure to offer a different type of activity each week. Variety keeps kids interested and involved!

Game: Race for Home Relay

Have kids count off by threes and form three teams. Lay a masking tape line at one end of the room and have the teams line up behind it. Place a plastic hoop at the far side of the room opposite each team. Run a masking tape line from each team's starting spot to its plastic hoop.

X X X X X X | _____ O

X X X X X X | _____ O

X X X X X X | _____ O

I have an exciting Race for Home Relay for us to play, but I have to warn you—it's lots of work! We have to make it hard because the younger son's journey was not an easy one.

Here's how the relay works. The first person in each team will walk heel-to-toe from the starting line to the plastic hoop. Your heel has to touch your toe each time you take a step. And, if you step off the masking tape line, you have to go back to the beginning. This part of the relay represents the younger son's trip from home to a far country.

• ***Who remembers what the son did when he reached the far country?*** He partied and spent all his money.

To represent that part of the journey, you'll put the plastic hoop around your waist and swing it five times.

• ***What happened after that?*** He ran out of money and had to get a job feeding pigs.

You'll set the hoop back on the floor, sit in it, and give three loud piggy snorts.

• ***What was next?*** The son decided to go back home.

• Masking Tape
• 3 Hula-Hoops

It's always a good idea to have the kids repeat game instructions back to you. That way you'll know they have a good grasp of how to play.

- Small Plastic Cups
- Ice Cream Scoops or Melon Ball Scoops
- Vanilla Ice Cream
- Lemon-Lime Soda
- Plastic Spoons
- Rainbow Sprinkles
- Paper Towels

Pour the soda slowly down a side of the cup so the fizz doesn't overflow

You'll jump up and walk as fast as you can back to your team. Again, you need to walk on the masking tape line. If you miss the line, you'll need to go back to the hoop and start your trip home again.

Any questions? As soon as everyone on your team has finished the relay, sit down and cheer for the other teams to finish.

Play until all the teams have finished. Make sure the team that finishes first cheers for the other teams.

Good job! Now give everyone on your team a high five and say, "God's love never lets us go."

Bible Review Snack: Prodigal Punch

On the snack table, set ice cream scoops, vanilla ice cream, bottles of lemon-lime soda, and bottles of rainbow sprinkles. Have each child pick up a plastic cup, a plastic spoon, and a paper towel.

• ***What's the first thing the younger son did in today's story?*** Asked his father for a lot of money.

That's right. The father went and scooped up all the money the boy would receive someday and gave it to him. Now we're going to scoop up some ice cream for your prodigal punch.

With your helpers, place a very small scoop of ice cream in each child's cup.

Mmm. The boy thought it was yummy to have all that money.

• ***What did he do next?*** He traveled to a far country and spent his money on parties.

We're going to add some soda to your punch. The fizz it makes will represent all the wild parties the son threw for his friends.

Add soda to each child's cup.

• ***What happened to the money?*** He ran out of it.

Eat up your scoop of ice cream.

• ***Then what happened to his friends?*** They went away.

Drink up all your soda.

• ***What did the boy have left?*** Nothing.

• ***What did the son do for a job?*** Fed pigs.

Give a little piggy snort to the people on your right and left.

• ***What made the son decide to go home?*** He remembered that his father's servants had plenty to eat.

• ***Did he expect his father to welcome him back?*** No. He decided to ask if he could be a servant.

• ***What happened when the son got near his home?*** He saw his father running to meet him.

• ***How did his father treat him?*** He gave him fine clothes and sandals and a ring.

When the son got home, he was running on empty, but his father filled his cup with love. We're going to fill your cups one more time.

Give each child another small scoop of ice cream and splash of soda.

• ***Besides giving the boy clothes and a ring, what else did the father do to celebrate?*** He threw a party.

We'll drop a few sprinkles on your punch to represent the big celebration the father threw for his son. Now slurp up your prodigal punch as I ask a couple more questions.

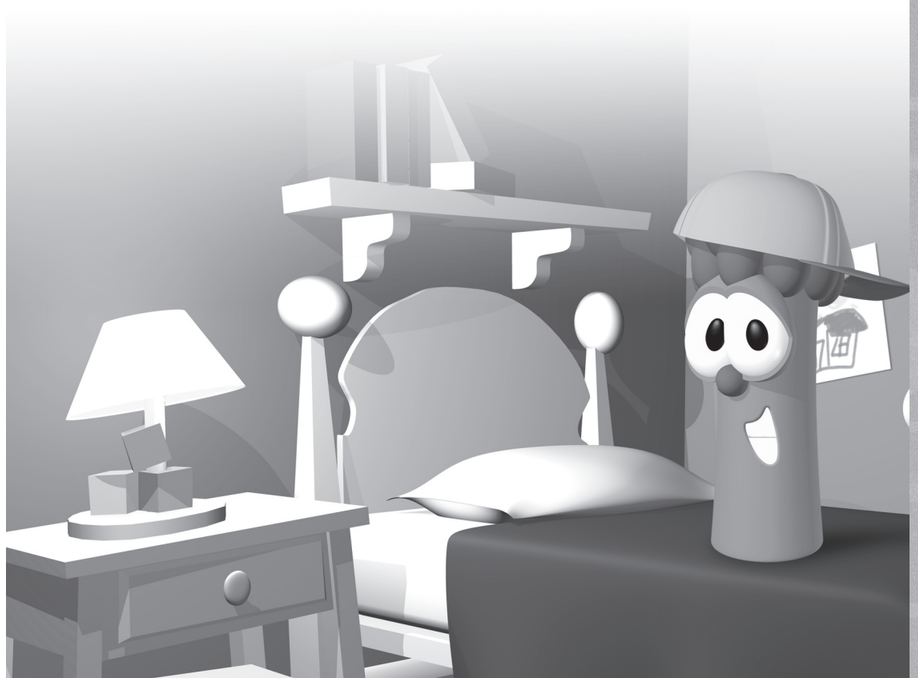
• ***In Jesus' story, who did the father represent?*** God.

• ***How is God like the father in the story?*** He never gives up on us. He will always welcome us with loving arms.

• ***Will God always welcome us no matter how badly we mess up? Why?*** Yes, because he loves us.

Super job remembering the story, everyone!

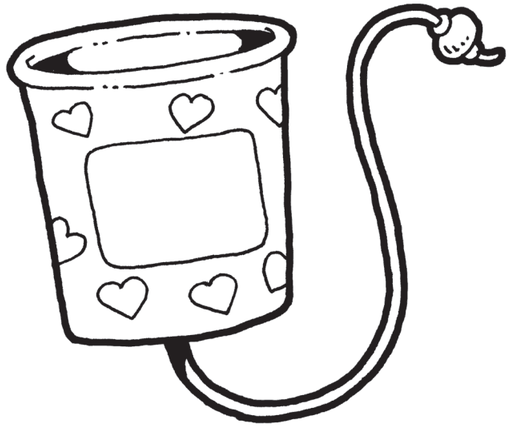
Have children clean up the snack area before you continue the lesson.



- Foam Cups
- Pencils
- 12-inch Lengths of Yarn
- Craft Glue
- Large Plastic Beads

Have classroom helpers and older children help younger children poke small holes in the bottom of their cups.

Outreach: Welcome Home Cup Game



It's always fun to tell Bible stories to younger children. Today we're going to make a simple game to help you do that.

First, you'll all need a foam cup and a pencil. Use the point of your pencil to poke a small hole in the bottom of your cup.

Pass out twelve-inch lengths of yarn or string.

Tie a big knot in one end of your yarn. Then drop the other end of the string inside the cup and use your pencil to poke it through the hole. Pull the end very gently until the knot touches the bottom of the cup. We'll come around and put a dot of glue under the knot in the bottom of the cup.

As you're waiting for your glue, slip a bead onto the other end of your string and tie a knot to hold it in place. When you've finished tying your bead, help the kids around you tie their beads.

While we give the glue a couple of minutes to dry, find a partner and practice telling each other today's Bible story. One person can start the story, then the other partner can tell what happened next. Keep taking turns until you've told the whole story of the younger son that came home.

• I wonder if you can guess how our little cup game fits with today's story?

Let the children try to figure out the mystery. If you need to, explain that the bead is like the younger son who left home and went far away. When they swing the yarn, they'll try to make the bead land in the cup. The cup is like the father who welcomed his son home.

I hope you'll find a young friend to share the Bible story and your game with this week.

Have kids clean up before you move on to the next activity.

LESSON 11
Adventure Zones

Choose from three Adventure Zones: a game, a Bible review snack, and an outreach project. Depending on the length of your lesson and the number of staff you have available, you may want to offer one, two, or all three of these hands-on, lesson-reinforcing activities. If you choose just one, be sure to offer a different type of activity each week. Variety keeps kids interested and involved!

Game: Neighbor Tag

Who's up for a game of neighbor tag? I am! Here's how we'll play. I'll choose two people to be "It." The rest of you will walk back and forth across the room. There's no running in this game of tag!

While you're walking across the room, the people who are "It" will grab neighbors by hooking elbows. The people they catch will try to get more people by hooking elbows as the people who are still loose walk across the room.

We'll play until all of you are neighbors with one group or the other. Then we'll count and see which group caught the most neighbors. And remember, in this game you want to be caught!

• Are you going to run around the room as we play? No, we're going to walk.

Ready, set, go!

After the game, have kids sit down.

• In real life, what's good about finding new neighbors? You can share God's love with them.

• Does it matter what your neighbors look like or sound like? Why or why not?

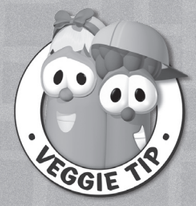
• What sometimes keeps us from finding new neighbors?

I'll be praying for each of you to do a good job of finding new neighbors this week!

Bible Review Snack: Snacks for the Road

Cover the snack table with a clean plastic tablecloth. Set out Nutter Butter cookies, thin licorice whips, and paper towels. Gather the children around the table.

Today we're going to have snacks for the road—literally!



Children truly enjoy this game. Because it goes quickly, you may want to choose other kids to be "It" and play once or twice more.

- Plastic Tablecloth
- Licorice Whips
- Nutter Butter Cookies
- Paper Towels

• ***When you travel, what kinds of snacks do you take in the car?***

Those sound good! But our Bible review snack isn't just for the road; it is the road. All down this table we're going to make a winding road, just as we did in our Bible story. We'll use licorice whips for the sides of the road. Work together and start making a road from one end of the table to the other.

• ***Where did the road in our story go?*** From Jerusalem to Jericho.

• ***Why was it a dangerous road?*** Because there were lots of places for robbers to hide.

• ***What happened to the traveler in the story?*** He was robbed and beaten and left on the road.

Pick up a cookie and place it by a curve in the road.

This is our injured traveler. Now each of you will need two cookies. Have a good look at your cookies. If you have a good imagination, they look a little like feet!

Everyone, march your feet on the road.

Let the kids march their feet for ten or fifteen seconds, then stop them.

The injured traveler heard footsteps.

• ***Who was the first person to walk by and see the injured man? What did he do?*** A priest; he walked by on the other side of the road.

March your feet on the road again.

• ***Who was the second person to come down the road and see the injured man? What did he do?*** A Levite; he looked at the injured man but walked on by.

March your feet on the road one more time.

• ***Who was the third person to walk down the road? What did he do?*** A Samaritan; he took care of the injured man's wounds, put the man on his donkey, took him to an inn, and paid the innkeeper to take care of the man.

• ***Why was it surprising that the Samaritan stopped and helped the injured man?*** Because the Samaritans and the Jews were enemies.

Good job with the story. Now you can nibble your cookies and gobble up the road as we continue. Be sure to be a good neighbor as you take pieces of licorice from the road!

• ***Hmm. Do you think Jesus wants us to be neighbors even to people we don't like? Explain.***

• ***What's one way you can be a neighbor to someone this week?***

Have children clean up the snack area before you continue the lesson.

Outreach: Food for Neighbors Bags

Before class contact your church's food pantry for a list of nonperishable items they can use for the people they help. Or find out which charitable organization in your community your church supports, and get a list of nonperishable items that organization needs. To get you started, here is a list of donations that such organizations typically appreciate.

- toothpaste
- toothbrushes
- soap
- wet wipes
- macaroni and cheese
- peanut butter
- jelly
- canned meat
- canned vegetables
- canned soup
- spaghetti sauce
- pasta

Make enough copies of the From Your Neighbor list for each child to have one. Cut the lists apart. Set out copies of the list, scissors, paper lunch bags, markers, and staplers.

One way we can put Jesus' lesson on being good neighbors into practice is by donating food and other needed items to the people in our community who need help.

Tell kids about the organization that will receive their donations.

We're going to prepare bags for our gifts to neighbors we don't know. Here's how to prepare your bag. Take a list and decorate the words "From Your Neighbor" with markers. When you've finished, take a lunch bag and decorate it too.

Then bring your list and your bag to an adult helper. We'll staple your list to your bag.

When you go home, show your bag to your parents and talk about today's lesson. Next week, bring your bag back with one or two of the items on the list. I'll make sure your donations get to the right place.

Have kids clean up before you move on to the next activity.

- **Copies of From Your Neighbor list**
- **Scissors**
- **Paper Lunch Bags**
- **Markers**
- **Staplers**

When children return their bags, be sure to cut the food list off the bags to leave only the "From Your Neighbor" header.

LESSON 12
Adventure Zones

Choose from three Adventure Zones: a game, a Bible review snack, and an outreach project. Depending on the length of your lesson and the number of staff you have available, you may want to offer one, two, or all three of these hands-on, lesson-reinforcing activities. If you choose just one, be sure to offer a different type of activity each week. Variety keeps kids interested and involved!

- Recycled Paper (used on one side)
- Markers
- Whistle

Have your helpers spot the players to make sure the game doesn't get too rowdy.

- Waffle Cones
- Spray Whipped Cream
- Rainbow Sprinkles
- Paper Towels

Game: A Place for You

Have your helpers distribute a sheet of paper and a marker to each child.

When you receive your paper, write your name in small letters on the unused side of the paper. Then return your markers to the basket and give your papers to me. Make sure your papers are upside down, so your names are not showing.

When you have all the papers, shuffle them and have your helpers scatter them, name side down, all over the room.

Now I'd like all of you to line up around the walls of the room. When I blow my whistle, start looking for the paper with your name on it. As you look, be sure to leave all the papers upside down so no one's name is showing.

When you find the paper with your name on it, sit down. We'll see how long it takes for all of you to find your own place.

Ask a child to repeat the rules back to you. When you're sure the kids understand the game clearly, blow the whistle.

After all the kids have located their place, collect the papers and play another round.

• ***You each had your special place in this game. Where else do you have a special place made just for you?*** In heaven.

• ***Who's making that special place for you?*** Jesus.

• ***Who will take you there?*** Jesus.

I hope you'll always remember that Jesus is making a special place for you in his Father's house in heaven. Someday we'll be together there!

Bible Review Snack: A Little Bit of Heaven

On the snack table set out waffle cones, cans of spray whipped cream, bottles of rainbow sprinkles, and paper towels. Gather the children around the table.

Today we're going to make "A Little Bit of Heaven" snacks. When you look at the ingredients, you can tell why I gave the snack that name!

• ***When Jesus' disciples asked him where he was going, what did Jesus answer?*** That they couldn't go with him.

• **When Jesus talked about his Father's house, what did he mean?** Heaven.

We don't know exactly what heaven looks like, but the Bible tells us the streets are made of gold and the gates are made of giant pearls. Jesus said he would go and prepare a place for us there. Take a waffle cone to represent your very own place in heaven.

• ***What do we know about heaven?*** Everyone worships God and sings; there will be no sadness; God will wipe away our tears.

Squirt some whipped cream into your cone to represent all the wonderful things that will be part of heaven.

• ***What did Jesus say is the way to heaven?*** He is.

That's right. He said, "I am the way. And I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through me" (John 14:6). Will you repeat that after me?

I am the way.
And I am the truth
and the life.
The only way to the Father
is through me.

Now that you know that the way to heaven is to believe in Jesus and follow him, I hope you'll tell lots of other people. Telling people about Jesus is the most wonderful gift you can ever give.

Put a few sprinkles on your treat to represent all the people you'll tell about Jesus. Then go ahead and enjoy your treats. I wonder if I'll see any whipped cream faces before you're through!

Have children clean up the snack area before you continue the lesson.

Outreach: Invitation to Heaven

Before class, create a couple of finished invitation samples for kids to see. Set out copies of the Invitation to Heaven, scissors, markers, glue sticks, and your sample invitations.

Now that you know the way to heaven, it's time to share the Good News with someone else. These cool invitations will help you do just that.

Pass around your samples.

The Bible verse on this invitation is John 14:6. Who can read it for me?

- Copies of Invitation to Heaven
- Scissors
- Markers
- Glue Sticks
- Sample invitations

• What does Jesus mean that he is the way, the truth, and the life?

Help the kids articulate that if we believe in Jesus and follow him all our lives, he will lead us to his Father in heaven.

That's such great news that we really need to spread it around! You can make a really cool invitation and give it to anyone who needs to know the good news about Jesus.

Have some kids use markers to decorate their invitations, while others cut them out.

Think of the person who will receive your invitation to heaven. What kinds of colors would they like? Personalize your invitation so the person you give it to will really enjoy it.

Show kids how to fold the bottom of the invitation up to the middle, the top down to the middle, then the side flaps to the inside. Have them write the recipient's name on the unprinted side. Kids may also decorate the outsides of their invitations if they wish.

As kids work, ask them who will receive their invitations. The handout forms a self-sealing envelope that meets postal regulations, so the invitations may be mailed if kids wish.

Kids may seal the side flaps with a glue stick if they wish, or wait and seal the flaps after they've shared their work with their families.

I think it would be a good idea to pray over these invitations before we deliver them. Who would like to pray?

Have kids clean up before you move on to the next activity.

Be sure to whisper help in the ear of a volunteer who might not be confident praying.

LESSON 13
Adventure Zones

Choose from three Adventure Zones: a game, a Bible review snack, and an outreach project. Depending on the length of your lesson and the number of staff you have available, you may want to offer one, two, or all three of these hands-on, lesson-reinforcing activities. If you choose just one, be sure to offer a different type of activity each week. Variety keeps kids interested and involved!

Game: Air Ball

Before class, lay out a simple masking-tape course on the floor. Kids will crawl on their knees and blow ping-pong balls from the start to the finish line of the course. Make the path about twelve inches wide and include a few ninety-degree turns.

Send half the kids to each end of the path.

When we listen to the Holy Spirit, he helps us make the right choices and follow the path God has for us. To demonstrate how that works, you're going to blow ping-pong balls along the path(s) we've laid out here. No hands! You'll blow the balls gently, because the Holy Spirit always speaks to us in a gentle voice.

When you meet the person who's starting from the other end of the path, you'll need to work together carefully to get your balls past each other without going off the path. I made that part of the game because the Holy Spirit teaches us to work together with others to help God's kingdom grow.

Have fun, and get blowing!

Have kids start from both ends and pass each other in the middle without mixing up their balls. When everyone has done the course, gather kids for discussion.

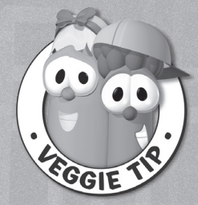
• How did you give your ball the power to stay on course?

• How does the Holy Spirit keep us on course?

• How can we cooperate with the Holy Spirit and follow God's plan?

Remember, the Holy Spirit speaks to us in a quiet voice. When we take time to listen to him, he guides us and gives us the power we need to follow God's plan.

• Ping-Pong Balls
• Masking Tape



If you have a large group of kids, you may want to have a helper assist you in laying out two or three similar courses.

- Graham Crackers
- Red Hots
- Marshmallow Crème
- Plastic Knives
- Paper Towels

You may wish to have helpers pour a few Red Hots on each child's paper towel.

- Copies of You Have a Helper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Glue Sticks
- Sample Sculptures

Bible Review Snack: The Right Path

On the snack table set out graham crackers, Red Hots, jars of marshmallow crème, plastic knives, and paper towels. Gather kids around the table.

Today we've learned about the Holy Spirit being our Helper and Guide.

• What can you tell me about the Holy Spirit?

Everyone take a whole graham cracker. This represents your lives, which will stretch a long way into the future.

Our lives are full of good times and hard times, mountaintops, and valleys. Please spread marshmallow crème on your crackers so it's thin in some places and thicker in others to represent the mountaintop good times and the valley hard times in our lives.

• Who can tell me how the Holy Spirit guides us? He speaks to us in our hearts.

The Holy Spirit speaks in a quiet voice when we take time to listen. He reminds us of the things Jesus taught and helps us find the truth. He also comforts us so we have peace in our hearts.

One thing the Holy Spirit does not do is give us a plan for our whole lives all at once. We need to listen to the Holy Spirit every day. Drop Red Hots onto your crackers to make a path all the way across. Each little Red Hot reminds us that we need to listen to the Holy Spirit every day.

Once you have finished making your path, you may devour your yummy treat!

• When will you listen for the Holy Spirit's voice this week?

• What kinds of things do you think the Holy Spirit might say to you? He will help me remember what Jesus said; he'll encourage me when I'm sad; he'll help me make good choices.

Good job! I hope you'll remember to walk with the Holy Spirit every day!

Have children clean up the snack area before you continue the lesson.

Outreach: You Have a Helper

Before class, prepare one or two samples of this paper sculpture. On a craft table, set out copies of You Have a Helper, scissors, markers, glue sticks, and your samples.

Sometimes in the Bible, a dove is used for a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Today we're going to make a beautiful reminder that God has sent us a Helper. You might want to share this with your family or with a friend to help them remember that we can depend on the Holy Spirit.

Begin by cutting out the dove and the base.

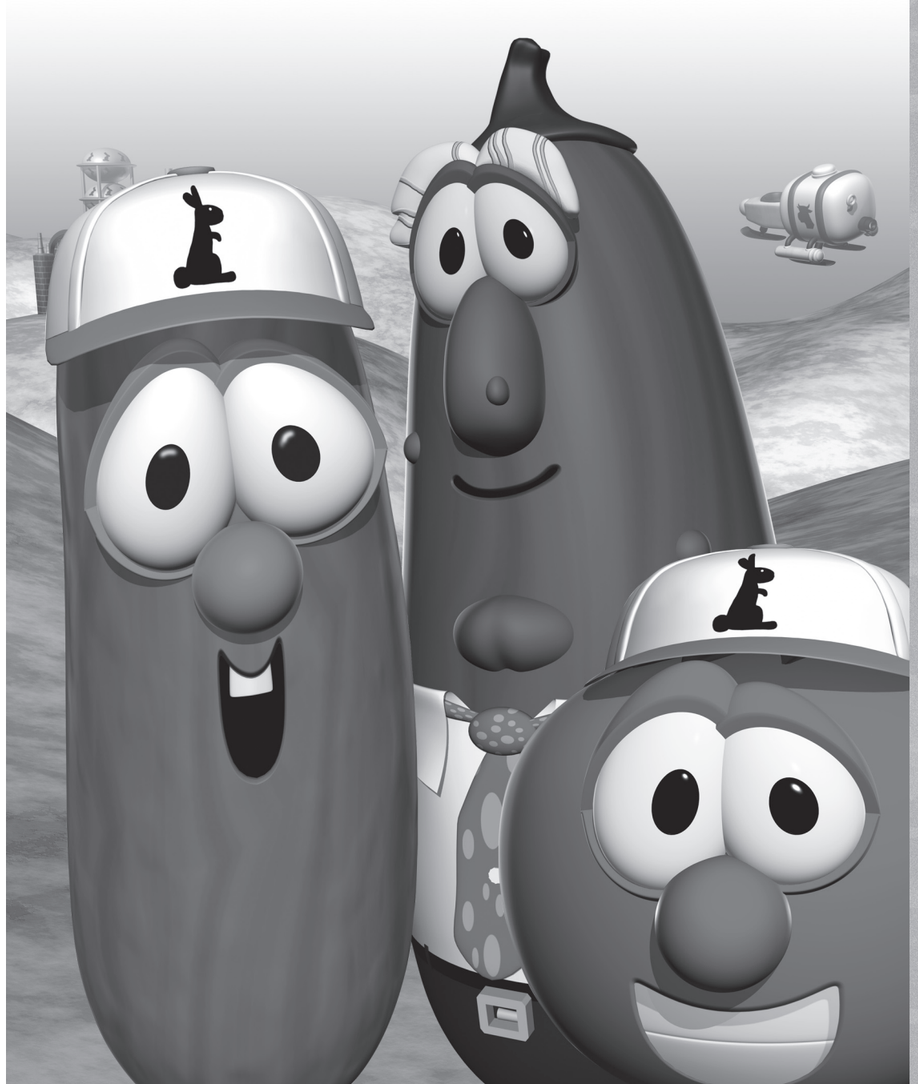
If you want to have kids decorate the base, allow them to do it now.

The next thing to do is fold the dove. Watch me carefully, and we'll fold it together.

Fold the dove in half, then fold back the wings and the tail on the dotted lines.

Rub glue stick on the base where it says, "Glue folded tail here." Then press the tail in place and hold it for a minute. Watch the dove rise from the paper!

• Who would enjoy receiving this reminder that the Helper is with them?

• What could you say about the Holy Spirit when you present this paper sculpture?

Have kids clean up before you move on to the next activity.